



Statewide Commission on Children, Youth and their Families
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education
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Therapeutic Crisis Intervention System

Program Overview

Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) is an evidence-based initiative developed by Cornell University in the early 1980s. With its intensive training program, TCI prepares school staff to implement a range of proven strategies to monitor, prevent, and effectively intervene in violent or other substantially disruptive incidents. TCI's strategies assist school staff in preventing crises from occurring; de-escalating potential crises; managing acute crises effectively; reducing potential and actual injuries to students and staff; and learning constructive ways to handle stressful situations. The training program provides school staff with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to work effectively with children in crisis. It focuses on preventative strategies including early intervention, de-escalation, behavior management, communication, and the development of coping skills.

Participation

Seven DCPS schools began participating in the pilot in July 2009. Three to five teachers and administrators from each school were trained and certified as TCI Trainers. Since then, they have offered and will continue to offer trainings in their own school buildings. Additionally, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education has contracted with Cornell University to provide ongoing technical assistance to these schools:

Coolidge Senior High School
Hamilton-Moten Academy
Jackie Robinson Center
Roosevelt Senior High School

Shadd Transition Academy
Spingarn Senior High School
Wilson Senior High School

Expected Outcomes

Like all of the Commission programs, the success of the program will be evaluated, and if the program yields positive outcomes over time, it will be expanded. These positive outcomes include a reduction in fighting, serious verbal threats and physical assaults, reduction in physical restraint reports, increase in staff skills and confidence, and a consistent strategy for intervention, reporting and follow up.

More Information

For more information on local implementation, please contact Jenna Grant by e-mail at Jenna.Grant@dc.gov or by phone at 727-0953. For supporting research or information about implementation nationally, visit the Family Life Development Center at Cornell University on the web at <http://rccp.cornell.edu/>.